

Course: Elements of Physical Geography 1

Units: 3.00

Semester: Winter Intersession 2014, Course ends 2/9/14

Section: 1166

Class dates: Monday, Jan. 6, 2014 – Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014

Location: MSA 302

Class times: M, T, W, Th. – 8:00 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

Office Hour: M, W - 1:15- 1:45 pm

Instructor: Susan White

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TEXT: Physical Geography, 10th Ed., 2011, ISBN-10: 111142750X

Authors: James F. Peterson, Dorothy Sack, & Robert E. Gabler

Course Description: This course is a systematic study of the elements of the physical environment (e.g. weather, climate, landforms, water, soil and vegetation), and an analysis of their interrelationships and patterns of world distribution. (UC: CSU) **Transfer:** 3.0 Units

Course Objectives: Demonstrate how the basic interactions between the sun and the earth's subsystems of the lithosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere affect such things as climate, seasonal changes, ecosystems, landscape evolution, and hydrology.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of a course of study in physical geography, students will be able to:

EARTH-SUN RELATIONSHIPS & INSOLATION:

- Explain Earth-Sun relationships and global patterns of sun angle, insolation, and seasons.
- Understand the wavelength properties of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum, and the interactions of long and shortwave radiation in Earth's energy budget.

ATMOSPHERE & TEMPERATURE:

- Diagram Earth's atmospheric layers, their depth, & air temperature lapse rates.
- Discuss the role of atmospheric pollutants such as Ozone in mitigating the effects of ultraviolet radiation on the biosphere and Carbon Dioxide in regulating the Greenhouse Effect on the biosphere.

CLIMATE & WEATHER:

- Differentiate between weather and climate using daily versus yearly aggregate measures of air temperature and atmospheric moisture conditions.
- Relate the Coriolis Effect of Earth's daily rotation to the spatial distribution of global air pressure and wind systems and the pattern of oceanic currents and circulation.

INTERACTIONS OF EARTH'S SYSTEMS:

- Relate the environmental controls of geographic location including latitude, solar angle, air temperature, precipitation, and topography to the spatial distribution of climate, landforms, water, soil, and biomes across Earth's surface.

LITHOSPHERE, HAZARDS & LANDFORMS:

- Understand the theory of plate tectonics and positioning of Earth's continents, oceans, and evolution of major landforms such as the African rift valley.
- Describe the interactions of endogenic & exogenic processes in forming Earth's topography and influence of rock structure on landform and landscape formation.

GEOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES:

- Utilize geographic technology such as remote sensing, satellite photos, aerial photographs, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to evaluate and assess earth conditions.

Institutional Learning Objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences. **Students will** provide an example of positive and negative feedback in an environmental system, such as the Ballona Creek watershed, to illustrate the human-environment impact on the ecosystem.

Instructional Methods – This course is taught using lecture, discussion, class exercises, and exams. An online course companion using the Etudes learning platform is provided for course lectures, exercises, and exam study guides:

Etudes Course companion log-in: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp> & <http://myetudes.org>

- Course materials, exam study guides & assignments can be found on the Etudes website.
- **Private Messages and Electronic Mail**
The Etudes Private Messaging system may also be used for communication for this class. However, every WLAC student has an e-mail address. **Check your Student.LACCD@Edu account daily/weekly. To access your account visit www.wlac.edu, and click on the Student Email button. To log in use your student ID # and your birthday and month. Your Student.LACCD@Edu email can be forwarded to any other personal email account.**

West Los Angeles College Attendance:

- This 5-week course includes 3 exams and 2 in-class exercises. Attending class regularly will aid in your success. You are expected to attend classes that you have registered for.
- Instructors may exclude a student from a class whenever a student is not participating on a regular basis.

Late Policy & Make-up Exams:

- Make-up exams may be scheduled depending on individual circumstance. See Instructor.
- Missing an exam with no prior notification may result in a 20% deduction in points.

Assignments & Exams:

Week 1 Quiz	30 Points	17%
Class Exercise #1	25 Points	14%
Midterm Exam	50 Points	27%
Class Exercise #2	25 Points	14%
Final Exam	50 Points	28%
Total	180 Points	100%

Grading Scale:

160 – 180	= A
140 – 159	= B
120 – 139	= C
100 – 119	= D
< 100	= F

Class Schedule – Elements of Physical Geography

<i>Class Dates:</i>	<i>Topics & Chapters</i>	<i>Assignments & Exams</i>
Week 1 1/6/14 – 1/9/14	Geography, Location, Regions, Humans & Environment, Earth– Sun Relationship & Representations of Earth-Maps Chapters 1, 2: pages 1-120, Physical Geography: Earth Environment, & Systems, Representations of Earth Chapters 3: pages 121-134 - Solar Energy & Earth-Sun Relationships. Insolation, Sun Angle & Latitude, Seasons. Longitude & Time.	Quiz 1: 30 Points Thursday, 1/9/14
Week 2 1/13/14 – 1/16/14	ATMOSPHERIC PROPERTIES Chapter 4: The Atmosphere, Temperature, & Earth's Energy Budget. Lapse rate. Troposphere, Stratosphere, Ionosphere Chapter 5: Atmospheric pressure, lows & highs, global winds & circulation patterns. Chapter 6: Humidity, condensation, & precipitation, relative humidity	Exercise 1: 25 Points Due: Tuesday 1/21/14
Week 3 <i>Monday</i>	NO CLASS MONDAY - 1/20/14 MLK JR. Holiday	Exercise 2: 25 Points Due: Monday 2/3/14

Week 3 TUES- THURS 1/21/14 – 1/23/14	Weather Systems & Global Climates Chapter 7: Air Masses: continental, polar & maritime & Weather systems: Fronts & atmospheric disturbances, tornadoes, cyclones, thunderstorms, precipitation, snow, hail, ice storms. Chapter 8: Global Climate & Climate Change; glaciations, sea level rise, increase in storm size Chapters 9, 10: Low Latitude Climates-Tropical & Sub-Tropical, Mediterranean, Mid-Latitude, Continental warm & cool, & Polar Climates-Highland, Tundra & Ice cap	Midterm Review Wednesday, 1/22/14
Week 4 1/27/14 – 1/30/14	Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15: - Biomes, Soils, & Earth Materials & Processes, Volcanism & Earthquakes Biogeography: Biomes-global associations of plants/animals Soils & Soil Development-Soil Horizons, Earth Materials & Plate Tectonics	Midterm: 50 Points MONDAY 1/27/14 <i>Chapters 1-6</i> <i>Multiple Choice, Map Interpretation, short answer questions.</i>
Week 5 2/3/14 - 2/6/13	Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 – Earth Landforms Underground water & Karst landforms, Fluvial Processes, Glacial, Aeolian (Wind), & Coastal Landforms & Processes	Final Exam: 50 Pts. Multiple Choice, Short essay. <i>Chapters 7-20</i> THURSDAY, 2/5/14

Disabled Student Services

If you know or think that you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact Dr. Duke in the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Office in the Student Services Building Room 320 or at (310) 287-4423. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations, such as additional testing time, or a note taker. If you require an accommodation for this class, please speak with me.

Dropping the course

According to college policy, you will be excluded for non-participation or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so using the Student Information System at <http://www.laccd.edu> and keep the confirmation code. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes. The last day to drop for this class with no fee owed is **Wed. Jan. 8th, 2014**. The last day to drop without a “W” is **Wed. Jan. 8th, 2014**. The last day to drop with a “W” is **Friday, Jan. 31st, 2014**.

For more information on all policies go to:

http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_12-14Catalog_Policies.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor may assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. Before a substandard grade is issued the instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity:

- **Cheating.** Using any materials or devices or strategies which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, **but is not limited to,** *copying content from the Web, textbooks or other sources, buying content, reusing materials produced in other courses, or any other system of inappropriate "help."* Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.
- **Collaboration.** Working together on projects, papers, exams or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.
- **Plagiarism.** Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

Standards of Student Conduct

The West LA College faculty, staff and administrators are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and will not tolerate any disruptive behavior in or outside of the classroom or any academic dishonesty. These standards apply to all students.

Disruptive, disrespectful, or obstructive behavior will be dealt with in accordance with the LACCD Standard of Student conduct. Disciplinary action can be taken if student behavior interferes with instruction. Please refer to the Schedule of Classes.

- Warning - A written notice, given to the student by the instructor.
- Removal from the class by the college.

Instructional Support and Monitoring

- **For assistance with research projects,** visit the Library on the second floor of the HLRC or access Library resources online at <http://www.wlac.edu/library/index.html>
- **Monitor your academic progress online at:** <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp> by clicking on the DegreeWorks icon, or contact an Online Counselor at onlinecounseling@wla.edu

Student Acknowledgment

(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

“I _____, have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements.”

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:
